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8 May 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Briefing Note on the Proposed Annual Study
of USSR Trade

1. The purpose of this note is to summarize the developments which have taken place since Morris Crawford first proposed the production of an annual study on Soviet foreign trade. At the meeting of 3 July 1962, several members of the Economic Intelligence Committee indicated an interest in such a study and it was agreed that we would explore the possibilities of producing it.

2. Now that the time is approaching when we can expect to receive the key document necessary to produce such an annual study, namely the annual Soviet trade handbook, meetings to explore the means of meeting the requirement have been held with representatives of the Departments of State and Commerce. Informal agreement has been reached on the procedure for producing an annual report on Soviet foreign trade. Subject to approval of the EIC members, we in the Central Intelligence Agency would propose to produce the report in accordance with the following terms of reference:

a. The foreword to the study would bear a specific notation to the effect that it had been prepared in response to the expressed requirements of the intelligence community, as stated by their representatives on the Economic Intelligence Committee;

b. That the content of the report, as reflected in the outline (to be distributed to all EIC members), represents an agreed statement of the desired contents of the report;

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c. That the ORR/CIA analyst working up the international balance of payments section of the report will consult with the Department of State specialists in the field so that the report will reflect the best data and thinking available. Specific acknowledgement of such assistance will be incorporated in the foreword.


d. That a consultative meeting will be held with the Department of Commerce's representative, prior to the initiation of the report's preparation, to insure that Commerce's views on specific content for each report (that is, important developments and points to be treated) will receive full consideration. Specific acknowledgement of this assistance will also be incorporated in the foreword.

e. Drafts will be submitted to the representatives of the Departments of State and Commerce for review and comment prior to publication. To the extent possible and desirable, the results of these reviews will be incorporated in the final revision.

f. The publication date will be set to come within two months of the receipt of the Soviet official trade handbook in Washington. The series would begin this year, with the production of the initial study, "Soviet Foreign Trade in 1962."

3. We believe that these terms of reference embody the agreements reached with representatives of State and Commerce and reflect the views expressed in correspondence between the Chairman of the Economic Intelligence Committee and Mr. Crawford, representing the Department of State, and Mr. Rubin, representing the Department of Commerce.

4. We believe that the proposed arrangement will meet the expressed intelligence community's needs. Also, it will result in considerable saving of time as compared with the requirements of a more formally coordinated study, an important consideration at a time when intelligence production shops are being pushed to the limits of their capacity. While no formal contributions to the annual study will be required from any other Department or Agency, the views and expertise of the Departments with a capability to contribute will be brought to bear on the final product.


Chief, Economic Research Area

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